

# The PIPA/Knowledge Networks Poll

The American Public on International Issues

## Americans on Climate Change



### **Program on International Policy Attitudes (PIPA)**

A joint program of the Center on Policy Attitudes and the Center for International and Security Studies at the University of Maryland



**Knowledge  
NETWORKS**

A polling, social science, and market research firm based in Menlo Park, California

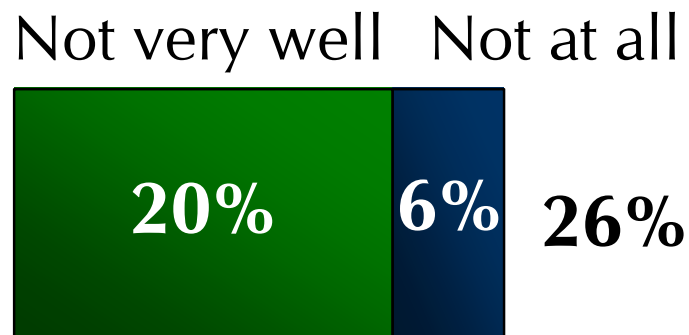
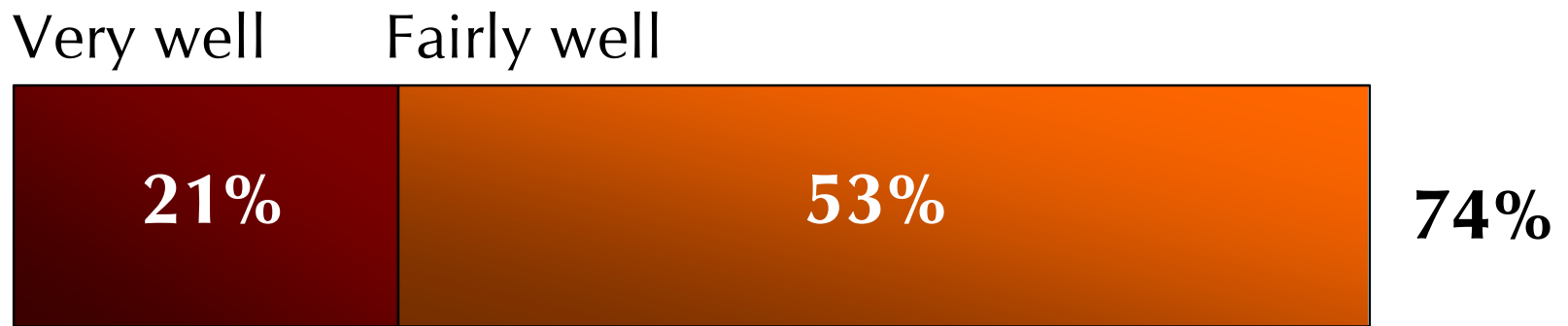
# Awareness of Climate Change

*How much have you heard about global warming or climate change?*



# Understanding of Global Warming

*Thinking about the issue of global warming, sometimes called the 'greenhouse effect,' how well do you feel you understand the issue:*



# How Serious a Problem is Global Warming

*If nothing to done to reduce global warming in the future, how serious of a problem do you think it will be for the US:*

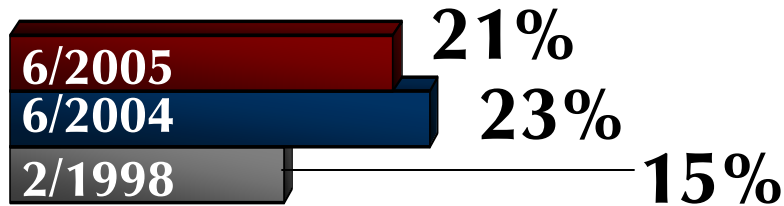


*If nothing to done to reduce global warming in the future, how serious of a problem do you think it will be for the world:*



# Views of Reality and Urgency of Climate Change

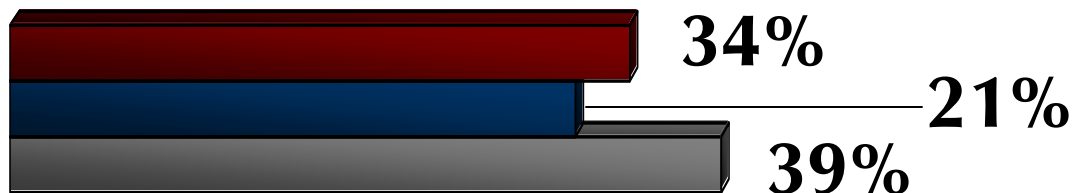
Until we are sure that global warming is really a problem, we should not take any steps that would have economic costs.



The problem of global warming should be addressed, but its effects will be gradual, so we can deal with the problem gradually by taking steps that are low in cost.

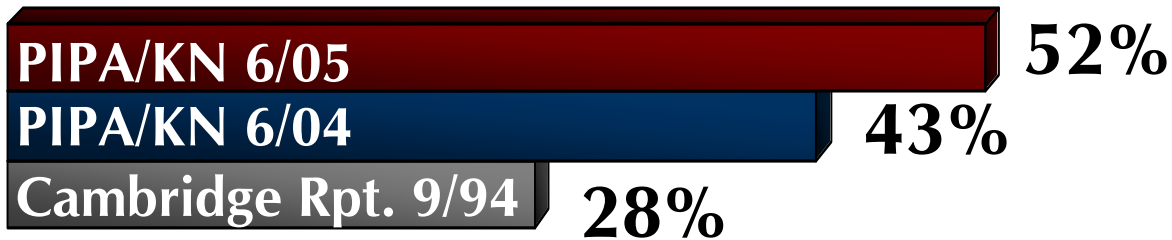


Global warming is a serious and pressing problem. We should begin taking steps now even if this involves significant costs.

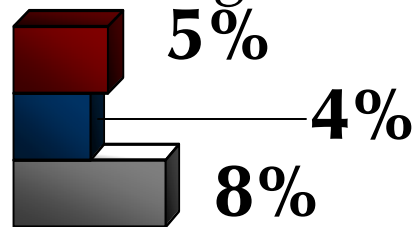


# Assumption: Scientists on Global Warming

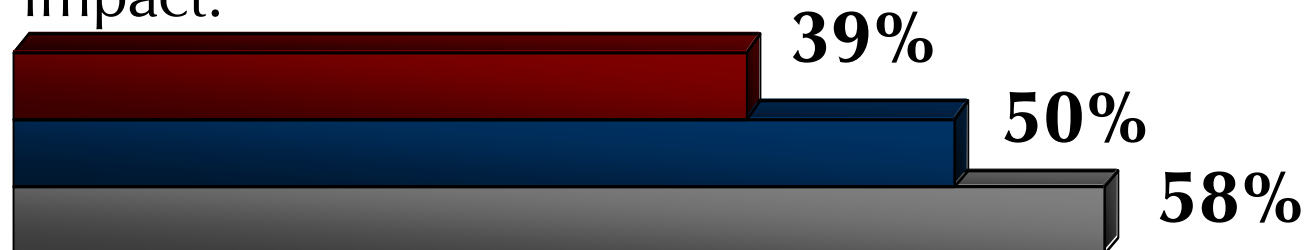
There is a consensus among the great majority of scientists that global warming exists and could do significant damage.



There is a consensus among the great majority of scientists that global warming does not exist and therefore poses no significant threat.



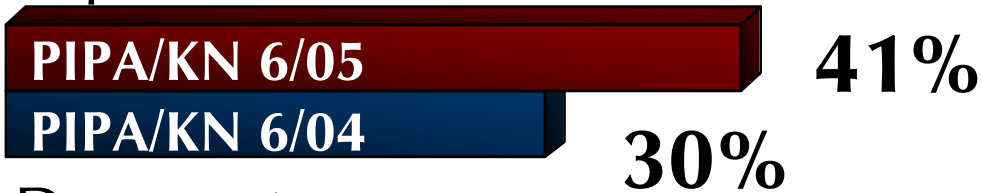
Scientists are divided on the existence of global warming and its impact.



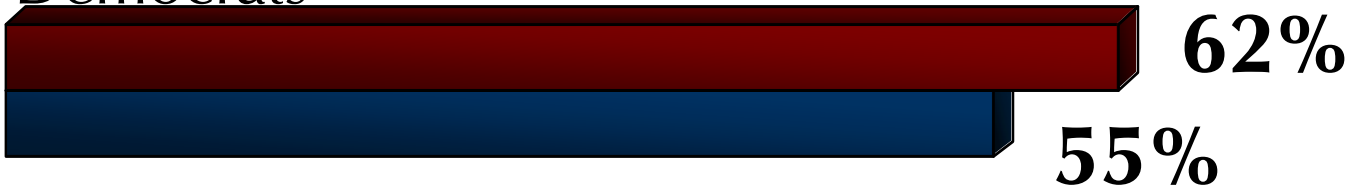
# Changing Perception of Scientific Consensus

*There is a consensus among the great majority of scientists that global warming exists and could do significant damage.*

Republicans



Democrats



*Scientists are divided on the existence of global warming and its impact.*

Republicans



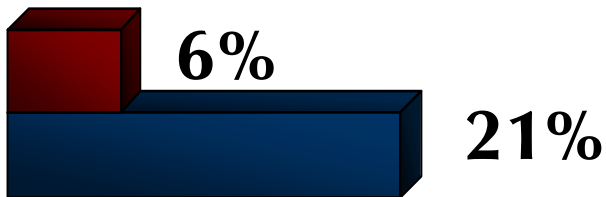
Democrats



# If Scientific Consensus Were Established . . .

*Suppose there were a survey of scientists that found that an overwhelming majority have concluded that global warming is occurring and poses a significant threat. If this were the case, do you think the US should:*

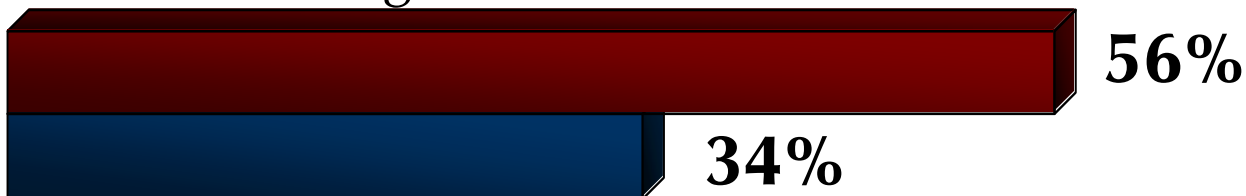
Not take any steps to reduce greenhouse gases that would have economic costs



Take steps to reduce greenhouse gases, but only those that are low in cost.



Take steps to reduce greenhouse gases even if this involves significant costs

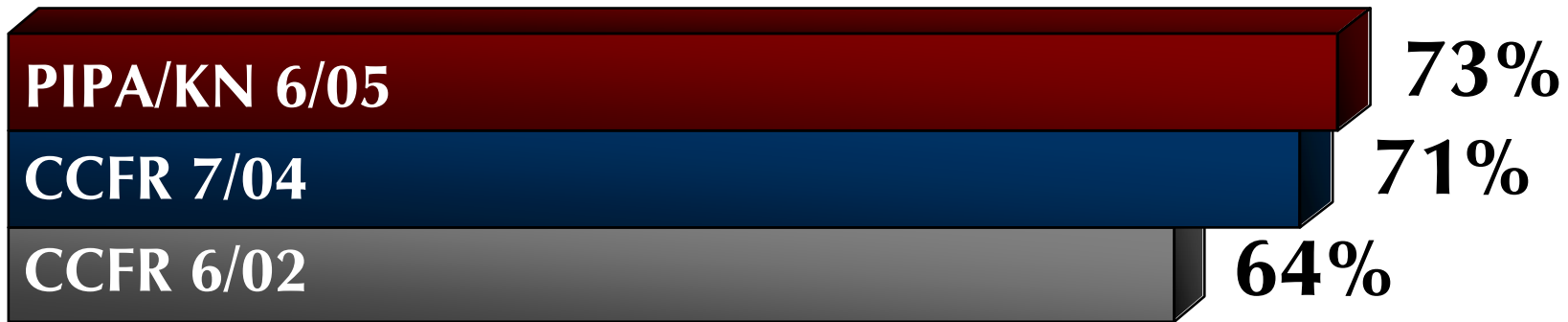




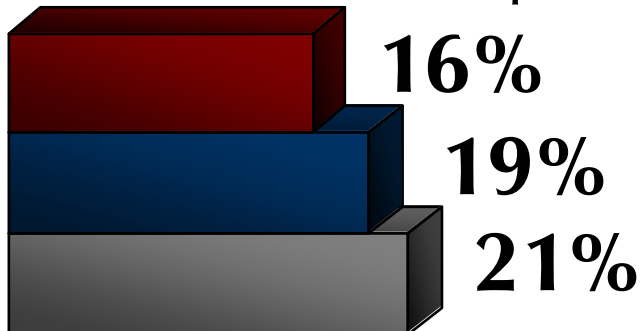
# Kyoto Treaty

*Based on what you know, do you think the U.S. should or should not participate in the Kyoto agreement to reduce global warming?.*

Should Participate

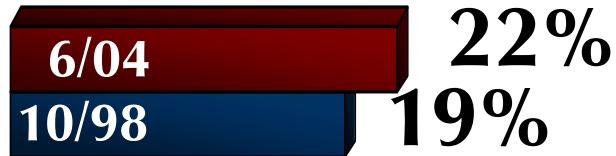


Should Not Participate



# Developing Countries and Emissions

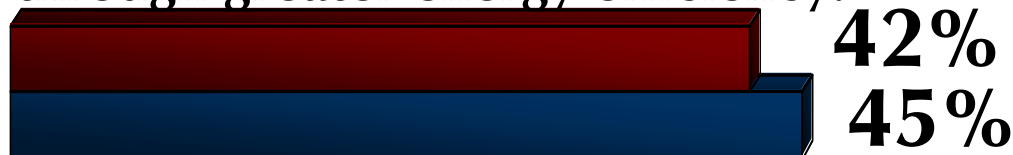
The less-developed countries produce a substantial and growing amount of greenhouse gas emissions. Therefore they should be required to CUT their emissions.



The more-developed countries produce far more greenhouse gas emissions and have not begun to make meaningful reductions. So the less-developed countries should NOT be required to limit their emissions UNTIL the more-developed countries reduce theirs.



Because the less-developed countries are poorer and produce far lower emissions, they should not be required to cut back. But they should be required to MINIMIZE the increase of their emissions through greater energy efficiency.



# US Emissions Relative to Other Developed Countries: Assumed

*At present, do you think the US, compared to other developed countries does:*

More than Average to Limit Its Greenhouse Gases



A 3D bar chart with three horizontal bars. The top bar is dark red and represents 'More than Average to Limit Its Greenhouse Gases' at 24%. The middle bar is dark blue and represents 'About the Average' at 44%. The bottom bar is dark gray and represents 'Less than Average' at 27%. Each bar has a 3D effect with a black outline and a lighter shade on the top and right faces.

**24%**

About the Average

**44%**

Less than Average

**27%**

# US Emissions Relative to Other Developed Countries: Preferred

*As compared to the other developed countries do you think the US should do:*

More than Average to Limit Its Greenhouse Gases



**44%**

About the Average

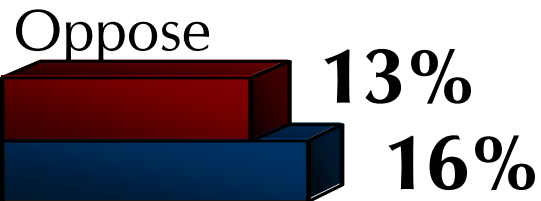
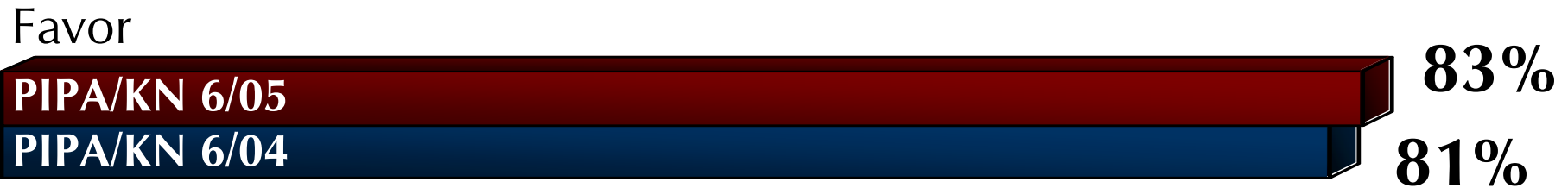
**50%**

Less than Average

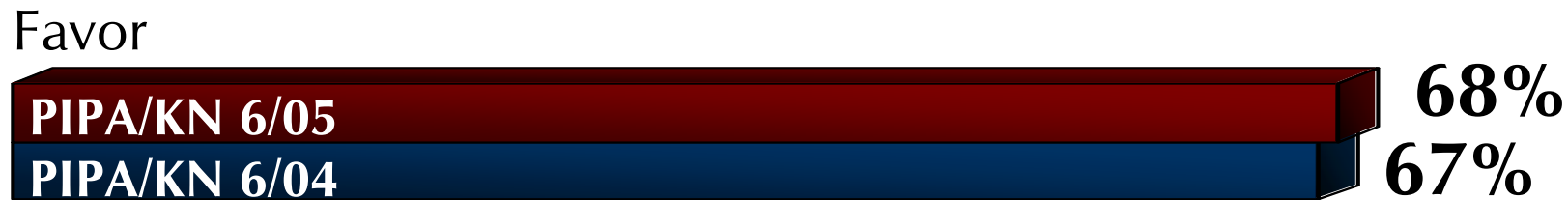
**3%**

# Legislation to Reduce Emissions (McCain-Lieberman Bill)

*Legislation requiring large companies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 2000 levels by 2010 and to 1990 levels by 2020*



*Assuming \$15 monthly cost for average household:*



# Support for Emissions Reduction Strategies

Tax incentives to utility companies to encourage them to sell environmentally clean energy, such as solar and wind power, to consumers

**81%**

Cash incentives like tax credits and rebates to households that upgrade to more energy efficient appliances like refrigerators and air conditioners.

**81%**

Requiring that by 2010, half of all new cars produced are hybrid-electric or some other type that is very fuel efficient?

**70%**

Continuing the tax credit for purchasing a hybrid-electric car?

**77%**

Requiring car manufacturers to meet higher fuel efficiency standards--assuming it would then cost more to buy or lease a car

**PIPA/KN 1/05**

**77%**

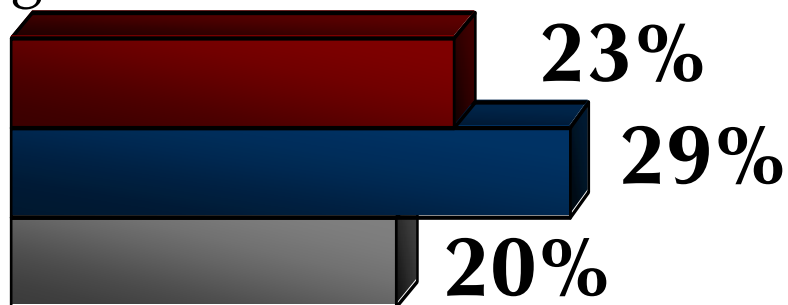
# Economic Consequences of Reducing Emissions

*Which comes closer to your opinion?*

The US economy will become more competitive because these efforts will result in more efficient energy use, saving money in the long run



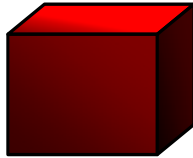
Efforts in the United States to reduce the release of greenhouse gases will cost too much money and hurt the US economy



# Gasoline Tax

*Would you favor or oppose an increased federal tax on gasoline?*

Favor



12%

Oppose



85%

***What if the increased tax on gasoline would cut down on energy consumption and reduce global warming, then would you favor or oppose an increased federal tax on gasoline?***

Favor



59%

Oppose



34%



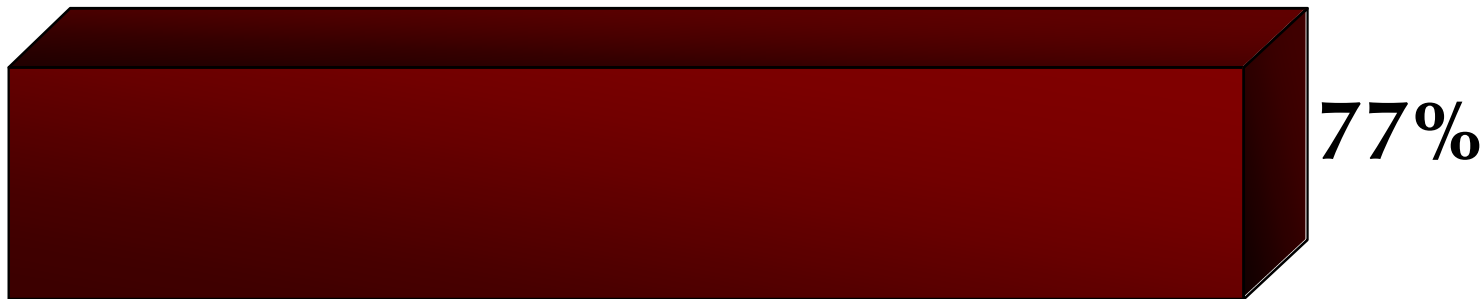
# Cap and Trade

*STATEMENT: If this bill were to pass, each large company would be allowed to emit a limited amount of greenhouse gasses. A controversial aspect of the bill is that allows companies to buy and sell their allowances to each other. The idea is that it will cost some companies much more than other companies to change business practices to lower their emissions. If companies with low costs could reduce their emissions further, they could sell their emission allowances to other companies who would save money by buying those allowances. Here are some arguments on these issues. Please select whether you find them convincing or not.*

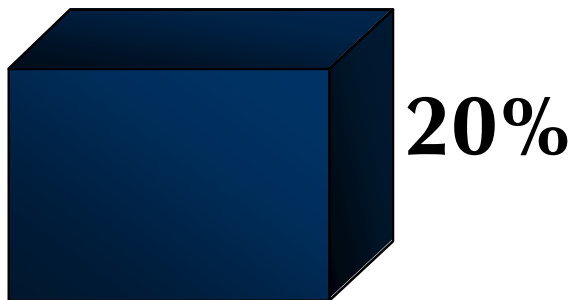
# Con Argument

*It is just not right for companies to buy the right to emit greenhouse gases. All companies should have to reduce their emissions.*

Convincing



Unconvincing



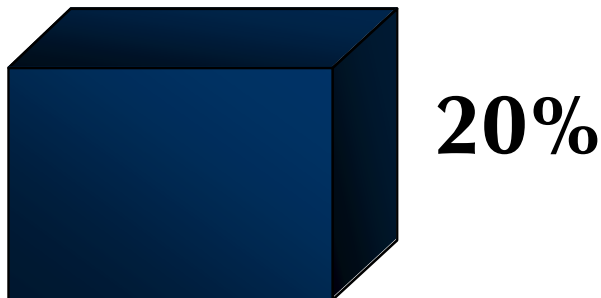
# Con Argument

*Requiring all companies to lower their emission levels the same amount will force them to adopt new technologies that may be expensive in the short run but will be economically beneficial in the long run.*

Convincing



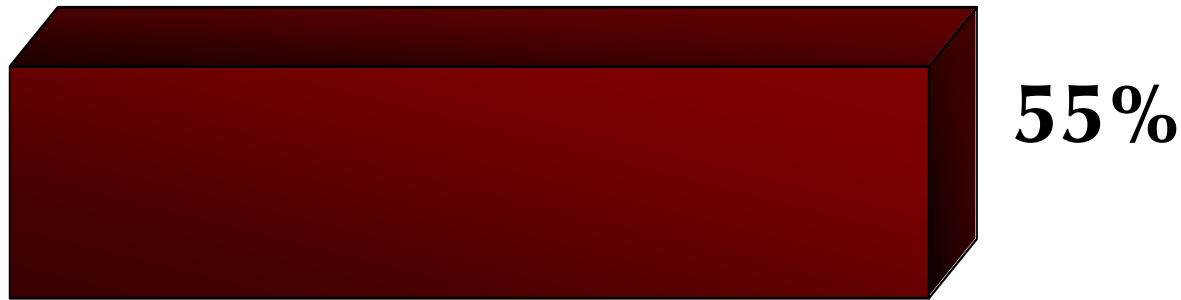
Unconvincing



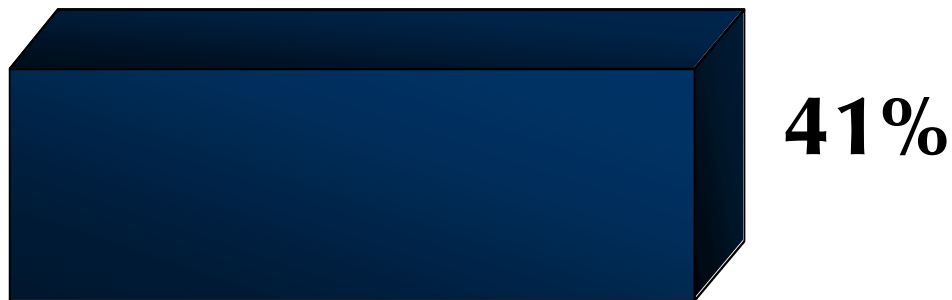
# Pro Argument

*If companies are not allowed to buy and sell their emission allowances, the costs of lowering emissions will be substantially higher than presently estimated for the average American household.*

Convincing



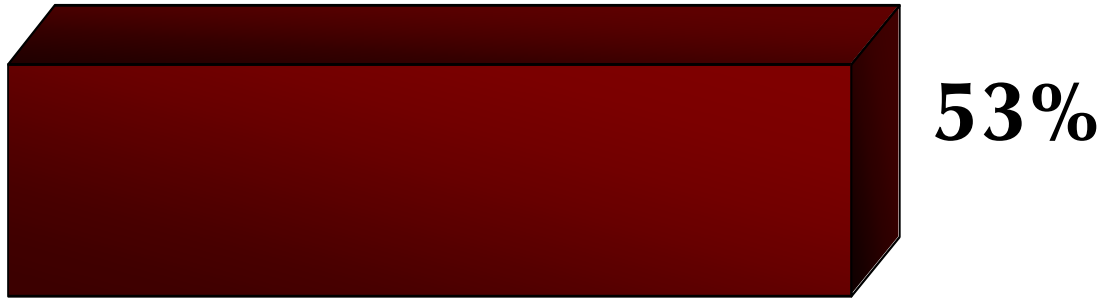
Unconvincing



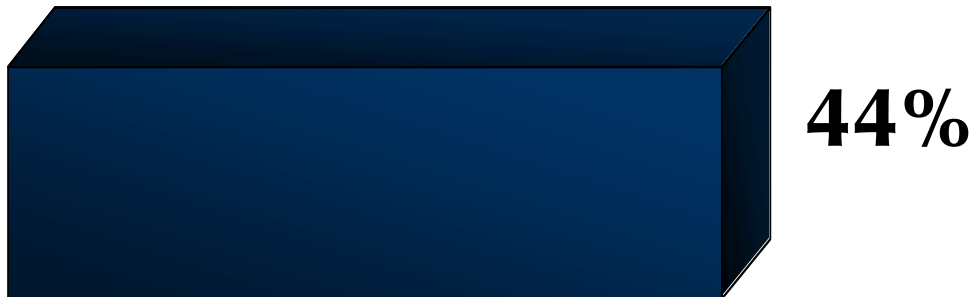
# Pro Argument

*If we do not let companies buy and sell emission allowances, this would be unfair to companies for whom it is more expensive to lower their emissions, and overall would make it more costly to reduce emissions.*

Convincing



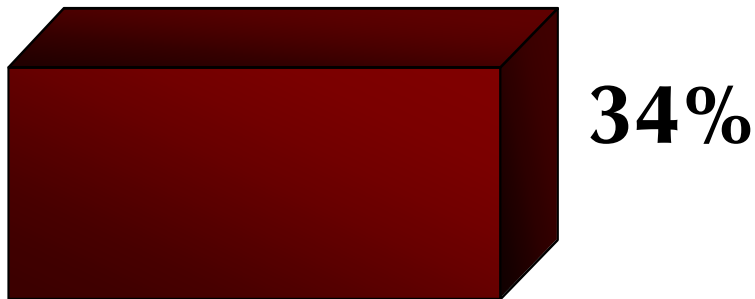
Unconvincing



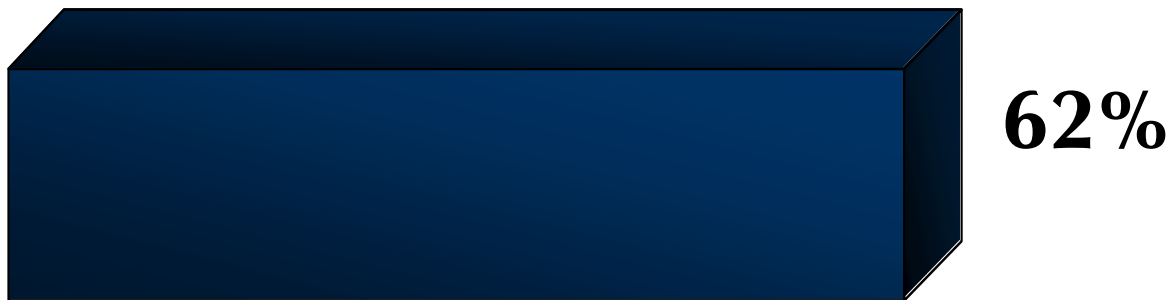
# Buying and Selling Emission Allowances

*Now, having considered these arguments, do you favor or oppose permitting companies to buy and sell their allowances to emit greenhouse gases?*

Favor



Oppose



# Kyoto Protocol

*Do you think the U.S. SHOULD or SHOULD NOT participate in the Kyoto agreement to reduce global warming?*

**U.S. Public: Favor 71%**

**All Leaders: Favor 72%**

**Administration Officials: Favor 68%**

**All Staffers: Favor 55%**

**Rep. Staffer 21%**

Senate vote on McCain-Lieberman Climate Stewardship Act: yea: 43  
nay:55 Setting standards on greenhouse gas emissions similar to Kyoto

**Pro-Stewardship members' Public: Favor 63%**

**Anti-Stewardship members' Public: 66%**

# Kyoto Treaty: Preferences and Perceptions of Congress and President

Want member to vote for Kyoto



Think member would vote for Kyoto



Think majority of Congress would vote for Kyoto



Think President Bush favors Kyoto





# Kyoto Treaty

Preference: Adopting Kyoto Protocols

Public:



Leaders:



Administration:



All staffers:



Republican staffers:



Percentages Correctly Estimating Majority Public Position:

Leaders overall:



Administration:



All staffers:



Republican staffers:



# Staffers' Perceptions of Constituent Views on Participating in Kyoto Agreement

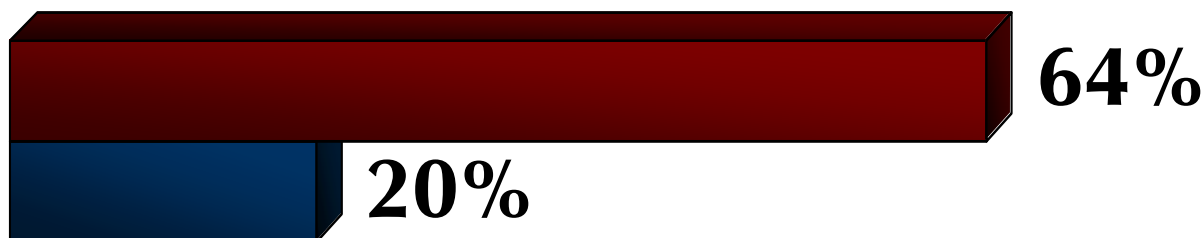
***Staffers Perceive:***

**Actual Preferences in District:**

*Majority Says  
Should (35%)*



*Majority Says  
Should not (34%)*



*Views evenly  
divided (21%)*



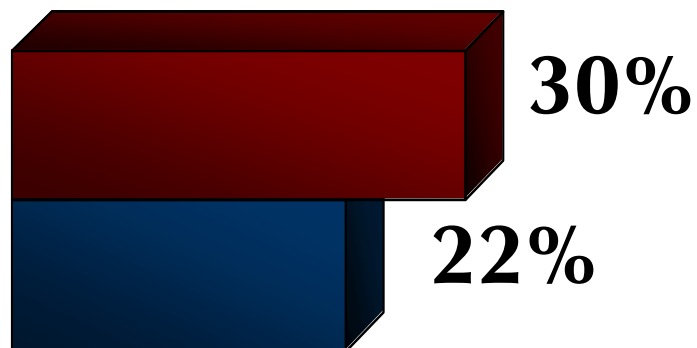
# Perceptions of Public

*Overall, compared to the average American, would you say you are more supportive or less supportive of taking steps to reduce global warming?*

More supportive



Less supportive





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